

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 137379

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS

SUBJECT:FRASER HEARINGS

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM CONGRESSMAN FRASER PROVIDING SERIES OF QUESTIONS REGARDING PHILIPPINES AND SOUTH KOREA WHICH FRASER WISHES ADDRESSED IN DEPARTMENT TESTIMONY JUNE 24. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS CONCERN KOREA. QUOTE.

2. STATUS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. DESCRIBE DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH KOREA SINCE ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARTHUR HUMMEL TESTIFIED ON JULY 30, 1974. DO YOU CONSIDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOREA TO HAVE REGRESSED,IMPROVED OR REMAINED THE SAME SINCE SECRETARY HUMMEL TESTIFIED? MAY WE HAVE A LEGAL AND FACTUAL DESCRIPTION OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS:

A. THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH KOREA (BY THE TERM "POLITICAL PRISONERS" I MEAN PERSONS WHO HAVE BEEN DETAINED, ARRESTED OR PUNISHED FOR THEIR BELIEFS OR

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OPINIONS, BUT WHO HAVE NEITHER USED NOR ADVOCATED VIOLENCE).

HOW MANY OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TRIED; HOW MANY CONVICTED; AND WHAT HAVE BEEN THEIR SENTENCES?

B. THE LENGTH OF TIME POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE DETAINED WITHOUT BEING CHARGED AND TRIED FOR OFFENSES. THE ACCESS OF LAWYERS AND FAMILY TO POLITICAL PRISONERS DURING THEIR PERIOD OF DETAINMENT.

C. TO WHAT EXTENT HAVE POLITICAL PRISONERS EXPERIENCED TORTURE OR OTHER FORMS OF MISTREATMENT? WHAT HAS THE ROKG DONE TO PREVENT THE PRACTICE OF TORTURE? HOW MANY PERSONS HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF PRACTICING TORTURE?

D. THE EXTENT TO WHICH DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES ARE BEING FOLLOWED IN THE ARREST, DETENTION AND TRIAL OF POLITICAL PRISONERS?

E. FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION, INCLUDING FREEDOM OF THE PRESS;

F. THE RIGHTS OF TRADE UNIONS.

G. FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO FORM POLITICAL PARTIES;

3. SECRETARY HUMMEL STATED THAT "WE HAVE, THROUGH A VARIETY OF CHANNELS, FORMAL AND INFORMAL, IN SEOUL AND IN WASHINGTON, ENSURED THAT KOREAN OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES VIEWS THE DEPRIVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS..." HAVE THESE EFFORTS CONTINUED OVER THE LAST YEAR? WHAT HAS BEEN THEIR IMPACT? IF THEY HAVE FAILED TO HAVE MUCH IMPACT WHAT EXPLANATION CAN BE GIVEN?

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE A REPLY TO THE VARIOUS ISSUES RAISED IN MY LETTER TO YOU OF MAY 23, 1975.

A. DOES THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE "THAT THE PRESENT ACTIONS OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IN SUPPRESSING DISSENT ARE GRADUALLY ERODING COHESION IN SOUTH KOREAN SOCIETY? CONFIDENTIAL

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B. DOES THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVE, AS I SUGGESTED, THAT THE U.S.G. SHOULD PRIVATELY CONVEY TO THE ROK THAT CONTINUATION OF OPPRESSION WILL FORCE THE U.S.G. TO GRADUALLY AND DELIBERATELY REDUCE AND EVENTUALLY TERMINATE OUR SECURITY COMMITMENTS TO THE ROK? OR, IN ANOTHER WORD, TO WHAT EXTENT ARE THE CONTINUATION OF OUR VARIOUS SECURITY COMMITMENTS TO THE ROK (OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER-

THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY, THE PRESENCE OF OUR TROOPS IN KOREA, AND THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) CONDITIONED UPON PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS?

C. DOES THE DEPARTMENT INTEND TO REQUEST MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE ROK FOR FISCAL YEAR 1976? IF SO, CAN YOU INDICATE THE KINDS OF EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNTS? IN MAKING THESE DETERMINATIONS, WHAT CONSIDERATIONS WERE GIVEN TO THE SECTION 502B OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AS WELL AS THE CONGRESSIONAL LIMITS PLACED ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KOREA FOR FISCAL YEAR 1975?

5. WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE U.S. EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WHICH WOULD BE RELEVANT IN SHAPING U.S. POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH KOREA? UNQUOTE.

6. REQUEST APPROPRIATE FACTUAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE EMBASSY AS WELL AS ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HANDLING
REPLY BY JUNE 16.

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